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# SENIOR CITIZEN NEWS

LET OLDER AMERICANS BE OF SERVICE

*Dedicated to the Educational, Economic and Social Betterment of Older Montanans*

Volume II | March-April, 1971 | Number 1

# Four Colleges in White House Setup

**HB 81 SPONSORS — Representatives Chase Patrick, Helena; Robert Dye, Bozeman; Gorham Swanberg, Great Falls and Minority Leader Bill Christiansen, Hardin.**

## New Law Strenghtens State Aging Program

An important milestone in the history of the aging program in Montana was reached March 15 when Governor Forrest H. Anderson signed into law House Bill 81.

This measure, which received an overwhelming support in the Montana House of Representatives, as well as a unanimous vote in the State Senate, authorizes the creation of funds to establish and promote recreational and other activities for the elderly by providing special county and municipal levies up to one mill.

Passage of the act was due largely to the efforts of House Minority Leader Bill Christiansen, D-Hardin, chief sponsor of the bill. He was joined in sponsorship by Rep. Robert F. Dye, R-Gallatin; Rep. Chase Patrick, R-Lewis and Clark, and Gorham E. Swanberg, D-Cascade.

"Under the provisions of the law," Rep. Christiansen said, "Senior centers throughout

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## Aging Needs Will Be Pinpointed

Helena—Four Montana colleges have joined with the state Commission on Aging to stage a series of area meetings and one statewide conference to formulate Montana's proposals for the White House Conference on Aging in Washington, D. C. next November.

**PHOTO ON PAGE SIX**

The four cooperating schools are: University of Montana, Missoula; College of Great Falls, Great Falls; Montana State University, Bozeman, and Montana Tech, Butte.

Representatives of the four institutions who met in Helena are: Dr. James Hall, University of Montana, Missoula; Dr. Virginia McGreevey, Montana Tech, Butte; Dick Gretch, College of Great Falls and Roy

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## MONTANA SENIOR CITIZEN CENTERS

Walter Zimmerman, Director
Recreation Department-City of Billings
Senior Citizens Multi-Purpose Center
13 North 29th Street
Billings, Montana 59101

James Todd, Director
Great Falls Senior Citizens Center
318 Central Avenue
Great Falls, Montana 59401

W. E. "Bill" Sherman
Kathleen Walford Senior Citizens Center
424 Higgins Avenue
Missoula, Montana 59801

Earle J. Tucker, Director
Helena Senior Centers
1421 Roberts Street—21 North Main Street
Helena, Montana 59601

Marie Bradley, Director
Butte Silver Bow Senior Activity Center
405 West Park Street
Butte, Montana 59034

Frank Bolton, Director
Flathead Senior Citizens Center
Main and First Streets
Kalispell, Montana 59901

Dan Lopp, Deputy Director
Mineral County Senior Citizens Centers
Alberton Montana
Superior Montana
St. Regis Montana
508 Toole
Missoula Montana 59801

Senior Citizens Center
V.F.W. Hall
Townsend, Montana 59644

Mrs. Sallie M. Brutto Coordinator
The Senior Center of Hamilton
O'Hara House
109 South Fourth Street
Hamilton Montana 59840

Jean Foster, Manager
Park County Senior Citizens Center
206 South Main
Livingston Montana 59047

Hugh Simanton Director
Malta Senior Citizens Center
206 South Second Avenue East
Malta Montana 59538

Kenneth K. Baldwin, Director
Bozeman Senior Social Center Incorporated
37 East Main
Bozeman Montana 59715

Mrs. Edna Walker, Director
Big Horn County Senior Citizens Association
518 Center Avenue
Hardin Montana 59034

Allen Darnall, President
Sidney Senior Citizens Center
101 3 South East
Sidney, Montana 59270

Grace E. Henderson, Director
Libby Senior Citizens Association
Moose Hall—California Ave.
Libby, Mt. 59923

Peter Bold, Director
Glendive 55 Plus Fun Club
120 West Power
Glendive, Montana 59330

Elizabeth Cashen, Director
St. Xavier Senior Citizens Center
St. Xavier Community Center
St. Xavier, Montana 59075

Florence Foundas, Director
Jolly Senior Citizens Club
Episcopalian Hall
Corner of Palmer and 11th St.
Miles City, Montana 59301

Clarence Hunt, President
Thirty-nine Plus Club—Gold Thimble
12 Main
Roundup, Montana 59072

Ted Halvorson, President
Senior Citizen Center of Teton Co.
202 Fourth Avenue N.E.
Choteau, Montana 59422

Herbert Carlson
Deer Lodge County Senior Citizens
210 East 5th
Anaconda, Montana 59711

# *Director's Report*

### *by Lyle Downing*

The outlook for additional Federal funding for senior citizen programs during the next fiscal year, is not, at the present time, too promising, according to the Congressional Record.

Senator Harrison A. Williams of the Senate Committee on Aging, at a hearing held recently in Washington, D.C., said there is a vital need for the Congress to readjust its national priorities and make more effective reallocations of Government expenditures.

The Congressional Record quotes Senator Williams as follows: "Our spending priorities are still determined largely by yesterday's thinking. They fall very short of meeting today's needs. They hardly begin to perceive tomorrow's problems.

"Two years ago," Senator Williams continued, "the Congress expressed its strong intent for expanding and improving the Older Americans Act by authorizing significant funding increases. For the coming fiscal year Congress authorized 105 million dollars to be spent. Yet, the Administration requests 29.5 million dollars, only about 28% of the authorized funding level. Moreover, the budget set for fiscal year 1972 is 2.5 million dollars less than the amount appropriated for that year."

The New Jersey Democrat pointed out that if this amount is not increased, every program under the Older Americans Act will feel the financial pinch.

Senator Williams also called attention to the fact that this is the year of the White House Conference on Aging.

"It is the year," he added, "that older Americans are meeting at local, state and national levels to formulate a national policy on aging. How can they develop realistic policies when they question our nation's determination to fund existing successful programs with realistic appropriations? I genuinely hope that this Congress will fulfill its role when funding for the Older Americans Act again is considered in the House of Representatives and the Senate."

The outlook for state support for the programs of the Montana Commission on Aging is more promising. The Legislature, in its extraordinary session in Helena ap-

## Director's Report

Continued from page two

proved a budget for the Commission which will make it possible to receive adequate Federal matching administrative funds. Unfortunately, the appropriations measure embracing the Commission budget went down the drain when the stalemated Legislature adjourned without passing appropriation bills.

Members of the Legislature, who held committee hearings during which the Aging budget was discussed were very understanding in their attitude toward the program.

We feel that despite what Congress does, Montana will meet its obligations to our 70,000 elderly citizens.

# Billion Dollar Slum Subsidy

Washington, D. C. — The statistics have not changed appreciably in the twenty months that have passed since Olive Walker Swinney and Irene Cox noted in Welfare in Review that:

"Welfare recipients spend about $1.1 billion a year in public funds for housing — funds that, in effect, subsidized slum dwellings. Despite the seemingly large total, the average allowance for each shelter was only $400 a year, or $35 a month."

Only 3.6 per cent of the persons receiving aid to the blind, aid to the total and permanently disabled and old age assistance were living in public housing. Over 50 per cent are living in substandard and overcrowded housing.

Action is still needed to overcome the shortcomings of housing for the elderly. The needs are:

- End restrictive provisions such as liens on home property.
- End impractical value limits on home property in determining eligibility for assistance.
- Increase aid to recipients who own homes to help them bring their homes up to, and keep at, State standards.
- When home ownership is to his advantage, to help the recipient buy a home through government or voluntary home purchase programs or through individual arrangements.

**MRS. GLADYS BARRY is shown on a sun balcony of the new P. J. Hagan Manor in Anaconda. Mrs. Barry is the director of the low income housing facility. Applicants must be 62 years of age or older or handicapped under the Social Security Act. Single persons cannot have an income of more than $3,500 and couples are limited to $4,600 annually. They cannot have assets of more than $10,000. Rents are based on a percentage of income.**

**(Photo by Anaconda Leader)**

## State of Montana Proclamation

WHEREAS, *A majority of Montana's 70,000 Senior Citizens are in need of services to improve their economic and social status; and*

WHEREAS, *These older Americans are largely responsible for making Montana a great state, they have a right to spend their remaining years in happiness and contentment; and*

WHEREAS, *The Montana Commission on Aging has made substantial progress in providing senior centers and other programs for elderly persons;*

NOW, THEREFORE, *I Forrest H. Anderson, Governor of the State of Montana, do hereby proclaim the month of May, 1971, as*

*SENIOR CITIZEN MONTH*

*and urge that each Montanan make May outstanding by supporting the Montana Commission on Aging and other agencies which are working for the betterment of older Americans.*

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF MONTANA to be affixed. DONE at the City of Helena, the Capital, this sixth day of April, in the year of our LORD, one thousand nine hundred and seventy-one.

**FORREST H. ANDERSON**
Governor of Montana

ATTEST

**FRANK MURRAY**
Secretary of State

### 24th Gerontology Meet

"The Care of Old People—Designing the Humane Environment" will be the theme of the Institute of Gerontology's 24th Annual Conference on Aging, to be held June 7-9 at The University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

For further information write to Woodrow W. Hunter, Conference Co-Director, Institute of Gerontology, 1021 E. Huron Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104.

# *Visual Services Help The Blind*

Helena — About 60 per cent of the more than 1,500 blind persons in Montana are over 50 years old, according to Emil Honka, director of state Visual Services.

Senior Citizens who have sight difficulties have available rehabilitation services which are not based upon the ability to pay.

Seven counseling offices have been established within the past two years. Through these offices guidance can be obtained — this may include restoration of sight. The price of these services furnished to the blind go up like all the rest of the inflationary economy.

For example — a cornea operation now costs $1,100.

The aim of these services is to have the individual live more successfully even if the goal is limited say to more mobility in a rest home.

Orientation mobility training is of special value to the blind but is limited by the lack of instructors — the one in Helena is stretched over the entire state. Orientation mobliity allows the blind to be independent in daily living tasks. It is a valuable skill to be able to leave an apartment without being forced to call on someone for help. It takes training to leave the home perhaps to go to a downtown area to conduct business.

Another service is to locate business opportunities for the blind — if you know of one write to Emil Honka, Division of Visual Services, Department of Public Welfare, P.O. Box 1723, Helena, Montana 59601.

Visual Services cooperates with the State Library to furnish talking books to the blind.

Every summer a five week course is offered at Montana State University in Bozeman to upgrade the skills of the blind. Courses are offered in Home Economics, the typewriter, Braille, woodworking and sewing.

Special appliances are available — a Braille watch has a face which opens with the numerals identified with raised spots. A timer is especially helpful in cooking.

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### Social Security Increase

Social Security checks will be increased ten per cent in June. After that a retroactive check to reflect the increase from the first of the year will be made.

The increase amounts to $3.6 billion. Last year the tax took in $5.8 billion more than the outgo. There will be no increase in the tax until 1972, when the maximum earnings that are taxed will be raised to $9,000 from $7,800.

A person now getting a check of $64 will receive $70.40. A couple now receiving $120 will get $132.

It is possible that a couple could receive $313.50.

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### Senior Housing Approved

Butte — A bond issue for 350 Senior Citizen housing units was approved at the polls. Similar issues were approved in Anaconda and Great Falls.

## SENATOR CHURCH NAMED CHAIRMAN

Washington, D. C. — Senator Frank Church, D-Idaho, a member of the U. S. Senate Special Committee on aging since its founding ten years ago, was named Committee Chairman on January 29, 1971. He succeeds Senator Harrison A. Williams, D-N. J., who has been appointed Chairman of the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare.

Elected to the Senate in 1956, Senator Church is a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and Chairman of the Subcommittee on Public Lands in the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. He is also Chairman of the Subcommittee on Consumer Interests of the Elderly in the Committee on Aging.

The Older Americans Act funding has been chopped back by $2.5 million by President Nixon's proposed budget from the appropriated $32 million for fiscal 1972 which begins July 1, 1971. This is only 28 per cent of the level authorized by Congress.

In expressing strong opposition to the proposed funding levels, Senator Church explained:

"Quite clearly, these recent cutbacks represent a serious turn of events which can possibly nullify the successful achievements under the Older Americans Act or render the law useless for our elderly. This is not only a matter of vital concern to our nation's elderly, but also should be a matter of bipartisan concern for every member in Congress when the Labor-HEW appropriations bill is considered."

## The Older Veteran

**In savage tribes where skulls are thick**
**and primal passions rage,**
**They have a system sure and quick**
**to cure the blight of age;**
**For when a native's youth has fled,**
**and age has sapped his vim,**
**They simply knock him on the head**
**and put an end to him.**

**But, we, in our enlightened age,**
**are built of nobler stuff;**
**And so we look with scorn and rage**
**on deeds so harsh and rough**
**And when a man is old and grey**
**and stopped short of breath,**
**We simply take his job away, and**
**let him starve to death.**

**—Orin Schmutz and Wendall B. Edgerly**

# How Penkay Eagles Manor Started

The founding of Penkay Eagles Manor, Helena, is recounted in the 1970 Annual Report of the Federal National Mortgage Association as follows:

"It was . . . oh, I guess, back in 1964 . . . when five or six of us were sitting around talking over coffee. We got to talking about housing and decided everybody was hollering about substandard housing, but nobody was doing anything about it."

The speaker was Ben Smith of Helena, Mont., who at the time was president of the Helena Eagles Lodge and ran a catering business. Others passing the time over the coffee were William Carson, a contractor; George McGaffick, who was in the wholesale gas business and is now coordinator for the Council for Natural Resources of the State of Montana; Carl Zurmuehlen, a certified public accountant; Charles Cartwright, an insurance man, and John Dahl of the Montana selective service system office.

Out of that conversation grew an informal concensus that something should be done — and something was. Today, the Penkay Eagles Manor is fully occupied and there are 26 applications on the waiting list. Plans are under way to add another 20 units, to bring the total to 86.

"This town is an old town," says Smith, who is now the manager of the project. "We had to learn everything the hard way, and if those of us who got involved in this had known how much work there was to it, I wonder whether we would ever have started."

A new $150,000 Eagles Lodge adjoining the manor will open in July.

## Four Colleges

Continued from page one

Sperry, Montana State University, Bozeman.

Also cooperating with the Commission on the White House meetings are Theodore Carkulis, Helena, State Department of Public Welfare Administrator, and Frank Sennett, administrative assistant to Governor Forrest H. Anderson.

John Plovanic, superintendent of the Center for the Aging in Lewistown, and a member of the Commission on Aging, is assisting the Commission staff in arranging the statewide meeting. It will be held May 25-26 at the Yogo Inn, Lewistown.

The area meetings will be held during April and May in Great Falls, Butte, Glendive, Bozeman and Missoula.

At the Helena meeting, John Haugan, the Commission's state planner, made a report on the White House Conference activities which have been in progress throughout the state for the past six months. He said that the meetings in Montana are mandatory under plans adopted by the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services of HEW.

After the meeting in Lewistown, the college representatives and the Commission staff will draft a proposal outlining the needs of the aged in Montana to be presented in Washington.

Barclay Craighead, Helena, chairman of the Commission on Aging, said he was highly gratified by the wholehearted support the Commission has been receiving in its preparations for the White House Conference.

"We believe that as a result of the Montana meetings this state will be able to make an important contribution to the national conference," Craighead said. "As far as Montana is concerned, this is a grassroots effort and we want to involve as many Senior Citizens as possible."

White House Conference activities in Montana are being partially funded under Titile I, Higher Education Act, State of Montana.

WHITE HOUSE PLANNERS — Representatives of four colleges and several state officials met in Helena to plan for the Montana White House Conference which will precede a national aging meeting in Washington, D. C. next November. The state meeting will be held at the Yogo Inn, Lewistown, May 25-25. Shown from the left, standing: Theodore Carkulis, State Public Welfare administrator; Frank Sennett, administrative assistant to Governor Forrest H. Anderson; Dr. Virgina McGreevey, Montana Tech, Butte; John Haugan, Commission planner; Roy Sperry, Montana State University, Bozeman, and Jack Tucker, Commission on Aging administrative officer. Seated: Linda Fellows, University of Montana, Missoula; Dr. James Hall, University of Montana, Missoula; Lyle Downing, Commission on Aging executive director; Barclay Craighead, chairman of the Commission, and Minna Miller, Commission secretary.

# SENIOR CENTER NEWS

## New Law

Continued from page one

the state whose federal funding expires will be able to obtain financial assistance in carrying on their programs from either the city or county in which their project is located."

Lyle Downing, Montana Commission on Aging, executive director, pointed out that a one mill levy in some of the larger counties of the state would permit centers to expand their present programs.

"The commission is particularly pleased with the passage of this law because it will make possible the funding of new centers and other programs. Montana now has 23 federally funded senior centers in various sections of the state and we hope to have at least ten more by the end of this year."

Barclay Craighead, Commission Chairman, praised the work of the four lawmakers who pushed the bill through the legislature.

"We are greatly indebted to representatives Christiansen, Dye, Patrick, and Swanberg," he said. "The passage of this bill means a giant forward step for the aging program in Montana."

**House Minority Leader Bill Christiansen successfully restored funds to operate the Commission on Aging with a budget amendment from the floor.**

**The Jolly** Senior Citizens Association of **Miles City** has added a Thursday meeting to activities now held each Monday.

**Pancake Breakfasts** seem to be a popular addition to events at **Alberton's** Senior Center, according to Leota Slenes, activity director for the center.

**In the spirit** of neighborly celebration, **Helena** Senior Citizens honored the new **Townsend** Senior Center at a dance held March 26.

**Libby High School's** foreign exchange student, Clifford Vilgoen, spoke and showed slides of his native South Africa at the **Libby** Senior Citizen center.

**The Tangen pictures** of Canada and Eastern Montana added something extra to the March Birthday party held for five of the members of the **Choteau** senior center.

**Queenie Blake** and Helen Moen of the **Kalispell** Senior Citizen center are conducting special Bible services for residents of the area.

**A potluck dinner,** entertainment, and wildlife and scenic slides by Dale Graff, game warden, provided a full agenda for the March 26 Senior Citizen meeting at **Superior.**

**Numerous activities** were held in March at the Livingston Senior Center, highlighted by a Saturday night dance featuring Eggar's orchestra.

**Senior Citizen** meetings have been scheduled for the third Wednesday of each month — featuring entertainment such as occurred at Rebekah Hall, **Glendive,** where members were favored by the vocal solos of Pastor Biel.

**Gallatin Senior Citizens** and guests enjoyed a bus trip up West Gallatin Canyon to West Yellowstone, sighting numerous wildlife of the area and lunching at the Stage Coach Inn.

**Fifty of Butte's** Senior Citizens toured West Junior High School there.

**Delta Kappa Gamma, Missoula** Chapter of female educators, listened at their March luncheon to John Haugan of the Montana Commission on Aging describe state preparation for the forthcoming White House Conference on Aging.

**Following St. Patrick** day's festivities conducted by Mr. and Mrs. Allen Denton, **Deer Lodge** Senior Citizens heard incumbent Mayor Sneberger speak on newly enacted legislation for the elderly under HB-81.

**Sidney Senior Citizens** were shown slides of South America by Raymond Ruffatto.

**The bus overflowed** into several private cars to take Kalispell Senior Citizens to **Bigfork's** gala St. Patrick's party.

**Members** and guests of the **Townsend** Senior Citizen Organization attended a potluck supper, presenting a gift to Jim O'Hara, VISTA Volunteer, who helped start the center.

## NEW HELP FOR THE BLIND

Washington, D.C. — Senator Jennings Randolph together with 47 other Senators introduced SB 1030 to amend the Vocational Rehabilitation Act to assure rehabilitation services to older blind persons.

Under the bill, each State would be entitled to an allotment, based on population and per capita income (with the minimum allotment set at $50,000). The amounts authorized for appropriations, to which allotments are related, are $10,000,000 for fiscal 1972.

# PLAN TO BE AT THE *WHITE HOUSE* CONFERENCE ON AGING

## YOGO INN
## LEWISTOWN, MONTANA

## MAY 25-26
## 1971

For information write to Montana Commission on Aging, 715 Fee St., Helena, Montana 59601


# SENIOR CITIZEN NEWS

LET OLDER AMERICANS BE OF SERVICE

**Dedicated to Montana's 70,000 older Americans**

Montana Commission on Aging
715 Fee Street
Helena, Montana 59601

Forrest H. Anderson
Governor of Montana

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